

VIRGINIA ROANOKE RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JUNE 30, 2009
COOL BRANCH RESCUE SQUAD, PENHOOK
MINUTES

Present:

VRRBAC Members:

Senator Frank Ruff; Delegate Charlie Poindexter, Mike McEvoy; Mark Wagner; Walter Coles; John Feild; Haywood Hamlet; Bob Jean; Russ Johnson; John Lindsey; Billy Martin; Read Charlton

Staff:

Tammy Stephenson, VA DEQ

Chairman Mike McEvoy called the meeting to order and recognized members and guests.

Chairman McEvoy changed the order of the agenda and addressed the Update on the Bi-State Commission Meetings prior to the Organizational Issues.

Minutes

Upon a motion by Mr. Lindsey, seconded by Mr. Jean, the Committee agreed unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2009 meeting. The April minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

Update on the Bi-State Commission Meetings

John Feild reported that the Bi-State Commission met in Henderson, NC on June 12, 2009. NC Representative Lucy Allen presided over the meeting. Rep. Allen shared legislation being considered in NC. If passed in its current form, the legislation would stop IBTs. Currently, NC has a request for water allocation from Kerr Reservoir. Many localities have passed resolutions opposing this allocation. There is concern that those upstream in VA would have flow-by requirements, etc. Delegate Poindexter suggested folks work through the planning district commissions to provide resolutions during the State Water Control Board comment period on this issue.

Mr. Feild said there was much discussion about organizational issues, such as the By Laws, voting, geographic balance of membership, meeting locations, etc. He and Senator Ruff proposed an allowance for polling members for action on items, as meeting locations are not always conducive to wide attendance by commission members.

With regard to water allocation committee, Mr. Feild reported that there will be a short-term delay that will ultimately prove beneficial to progress of the water allocation issue. Through this brief delay, administrative support for this effort could be obtained. Ms. Stephenson said the initial meeting is now scheduled, so the committee will proceed.

Mr. Feild said NC is ahead of VA with the water supply planning. Most plans are regional and due in November 2011. He added that we did not want to delay the water

allocation protocol due to the VA water supply plan completion dates. Ms. Stephenson said that while all the plans may not be formally submitted or approved for consistency, information should be available from localities in the Roanoke River Basin that will assist us in water demand projections and other issues relevant to water allocation. Chairman McEvoy added that he serves on the State Water Commission and there is an update on the water supply planning process on the agenda for the July 9 meeting.

Mr. Feild said the Scott Kudlas thought it would be a good idea if VA could consider similar legislation that NC is proposing. Ms. Stephenson will send out the NC legislation to VRRBAC members.

Senator Ruff added that he felt the two states moved forward in these initial meetings.

By Laws

Chairman McEvoy said if anyone has comments on the Roanoke River Bi-State Commission draft By Laws, to let him or Ms. Stephenson know.

After some discussion, the members would like Ms. Stephenson to draft By Laws similar to those of the RRBBC for their consideration.

Committees

After discussion of the existing VRRBAC committees, it was decided that to best provide support to the RRBBC, VRRBAC should have committees that reflect those established by the RRBBC.

Next Meeting/Topic

It was requested that the next VRRBAC meeting be held in the afternoon following the RRBBC meeting, which should occur in middle to late August in Danville.

Other Business

Mr. Wagner spoke to lake interests/issues and mentioned the fish kills, which may be weather related. He hopes to have a better report at the next meeting.

Mr. Feild said Kerr Reservoir has not had the fish kill issue, but has had some stress from spawning for stripers. ACOE have been operating with increased release protocol to mimic natural flow of the stream. Hopefully, this will promote natural growth to help farmers, etc.

Chairman McEvoy reported that the Smith Mountain Lake Association is gearing up for weed monitoring and treatment.

Mr. Jean said the striped bass is still suffering from a gill parasite. They are much smaller and the problem seems to be getting worse.

Mr. Hamlet reported that there are over 100 permits for spreading biosolids in Charlotte County. He is concerned about the affects on water quality. The Board of Supervisors

opposed the biosolids, but the state dictates its acceptance. He added that the spreading is policed better now than before. Mr. Jean said that Campbell County supported the state's position and agreed that it is controlled and policed better. Chairman McEvoy suggested the committee have a presentation on VA's biosolids program at an upcoming meeting.

Delegate Poindexter asked if a change was needed in the legislation relevant to membership on RRBBC. Chairman McEvoy said the term limits need to be reset so those involved can continue, now that the RRBBC is active. Ms. Stephenson will get the information out to Delegate Poindexter.

Several citizens in attendance spoke to uranium mining. Mr. Jean said he would like to wait until the study is completed before making any decisions regarding this issue.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT